AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. The claims are in the format as required by 35 C.F.R. § 1.121.

1. (Previously Presented) A method for caching information about devices on a network, the method comprising:

storing static or near-static data about a target device in a cache memory coupled to a router, wherein the router is communicatively coupled to the target device, wherein the target device is a sequential device, wherein the static or near-static data about the target device comprises SCSI response data from the target device, and wherein the router and the target device reside on the network;

receiving a request for the static or near-static data about the target device;

reading the static or near-static data about the target device from the cache memory coupled to the router; and

providing the static or near-static data about the target device in response to the request to prevent failure caused by the target device not being able to respond within a predetermined amount of time.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising collecting the static or near-static data about the target device prior to storing the static or near-static data about the target device.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein collecting the static or near-static data about the target device comprises detecting the static or near-static data about the target device as the static or near-static data about the target device is transmitted from the target device to a requesting host device.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein collecting the static or near-static data about the target device comprises detecting a request for the static or near-static data about the target device as the request is routed from a host to the target device and copying the

static or near-static data about the target device which is returned by the target device in response to the request.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the static or near-static data about the target device in response to the request comprises determining whether the target device is busy, and providing the stored static or near-static data about the target device if the target device is busy and providing the static or near-static data about the target device returned by the target device if the target device is not busy.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein if the target device is not busy, the static or near-static data about the target device that is returned by the target device in response to the request is stored in the cache memory in place of previously stored data about the target device.

7.   (Cancelled).

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing static or near-static data about each of a plurality of target devices, receiving requests for the static or near-static data about one or more of the plurality of target devices, determining whether the one or more of the plurality of target devices are busy and, for each of the one or more of the plurality of target devices that is busy, returning the corresponding stored static or near-static data about the corresponding target device, and, for each of the one or more of the plurality of target devices that is not busy, returning the corresponding static or near-static data about the corresponding target device returned by the corresponding target device.

9.-10. (Cancelled).

11.   (Previously Presented) A device comprising:

          a router configured to route data between one or more hosts and one or more target devices, wherein the one or more target devices are sequential devices; and

          a cache memory coupled to the router;

          wherein the router is configured to store static or near-static data about each of the one or more target devices received from the one or more target devices, wherein the static or near-static data about each of the one or more target devices comprises SCSI response data from the one or more target devices, and, where a target device is busy, to provide at least a portion of the stored static or near-static data about the target device in response to a request for the static or near-static data about the target device to prevent failure caused by the target device not being able to respond within a predetermined amount of time.

12.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the router is configured to detect the static or near-static data about the target device as the static or near-static data about the target device is transmitted from the target device to a requesting host device.

13.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the router is configured to detect a request for the static or near-static data about the target device as the request is routed from a host to the target device and copying the static or near-static data about the target device which is returned by the target device in response to the request.

14.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the router is configured to determining whether the target device is busy, and provide the stored static or near-static data about the target device if the target device is busy and providing the static or near-static data about the target device returned by the target device if the target device is not busy.

15.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 14, wherein, if the target device is not busy, the router is configured to store the static or near-static data about the target device returned by the target device in response to the request in the cache memory in place of previously stored static or near-static data about the target device.

16.   (Cancelled).

17.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the router is configured to store static or near-static data about each of a plurality of target devices, to receive requests for the static or near-static data about one or more of the plurality of target devices, to determine whether one or more of the plurality of target devices are busy, and to return the corresponding stored static or near-static data about the corresponding target device for each of the one or more of the plurality of target devices that is busy, and returning the corresponding static or near-static data about the corresponding target device returned by the corresponding target device for each of the one or more of the plurality of target devices that is not busy.

18.-21. (Cancelled).

22.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium, wherein the computer readable storage medium contains one or more instructions which are executable by a processor to cause a computer to perform:

        storing static or near-static data about a target device in a cache memory coupled to a router, wherein the router is communicatively coupled to the target device, wherein the target device is a sequential device, wherein the static or near-static data about the target device comprises SCSI response data from the target device, and wherein the router and the target device reside on the network;

        receiving a request for the static or near-static data about the target device;

        reading the static or near-static data about the target device from the cache memory coupled to the router; and

        providing the static or near-static data about the target device in response to the request to prevent failure caused by the target device not being able to respond within a predetermined amount of time.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the static or near-static data include identification information specific to the target device.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the identification information specific to the target device includes a serial number of the target device.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the identification information specific to the target device includes configuration of the target device.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the static or near-static data includes an indicator indicating that the target device is unable to respond.

27.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the static or near-static data include identification information specific to the target device.

28.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 27, wherein the identification information specific to the target device includes a serial number of the target device.

29.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 27, wherein the identification information specific to the target device includes configuration of the target device.

30.   (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the static or near-static data includes an indicator indicating that the target device is unable to respond.